

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION CHECKLIST

Project: Glenridge Defense Zone, Sugar Pine Point State Park

Date: June 3, 2009

Nature of Action: Reclamation is providing \$95,875 to California Department of Parks and Recreation (out of a total of \$105,658) to create a wildfire defense zone on 32 acres to a width of 200 meters on the south boundary adjacent to the Glenridge community at Sugar Pine Point State Park, Lake Tahoe. The purpose is to reduce threat to catastrophic wildfire and improve native forest composition and structure.

Exclusion Category: 516 DM 2 Appendix 1:

1.12 Hazardous fuels reduction activities using prescribed fire not to exceed 4,500 acres, and mechanical methods for crushing, piling, thinning, pruning, cutting, chipping, mulching, and mowing, not to exceed 1,000 acres. Such activities: Shall be limited to areas (1) in wildland-urban interface and (2) Condition Classes 2 or 3 in Fire Regime Groups I, II, or III, outside the wildland-urban interface; Shall be identified through a collaborative framework as described in "A Collaborative Approach for Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan;" Shall be conducted consistent with agency and Departmental procedures and applicable land and resource management plans; Shall not be conducted in wilderness areas or impair the suitability of wilderness study areas for preservation as wilderness; Shall not include the use of herbicides or pesticides or the construction of new permanent roads or other new permanent infrastructure; and may include the sale of vegetative material if the primary purpose of the activity is hazardous fuels reduction.

Evaluation of Criteria for Categorical Exclusion

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|----|---|--|
| 1. | This action or group of actions will have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. | This action or group of actions will involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources. | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. | This action will have significant adverse effects on public health or safety. | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |

4. This action will have an adverse effect on unique geological features such as wetlands, wild or scenic rivers, rivers placed on the nationwide river inventory, refuges, floodplains, or prime or unique farmlands. No ☒ Uncertain ___ Yes ___
5. This action will have highly controversial effects. No ☒ Uncertain ___ Yes ___
6. This action will have highly uncertain environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risk. No ☒ Uncertain ___ Yes ___
7. This action will establish a precedent for future actions. No ☒ Uncertain ___ Yes ___
8. This action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulative significant environmental effects. No ☒ Uncertain ___ Yes ___
9. This action will adversely affect properties listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historical Places. No ☒ Uncertain ___ Yes ___
10. This action will adversely affect a species listed or proposed to be listed as endangered or threatened. No ☒ Uncertain ___ Yes ___
11. This action threatens to violate Federal, state, local, executive or Secretarial orders, or tribal law or requirements imposed for protection of the environment. No ☒ Uncertain ___ Yes ___
12. This action will affect Indian Trust Assets. No ☒ Uncertain ___ Yes ___

13. This action will have a disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on low income or minority populations. No ☒ Uncertain ___ Yes ___
14. This action will limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites. No ☒ Uncertain ___ Yes ___
15. This action will contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species. No ☒ Uncertain ___ Yes ___

NEPA Action: Categorical Exclusion ☒ EA ___ EIS ___

Environmental commitments, explanation, and/or remarks:

California Department of Parks and Recreation prepared a Notice of Exemption under CEQA for this project. Surveys did not find any threatened or endangered plant or animal species.

The project is in wildland-urban interface and was identified in the Community Wildfire Protection Plan for the Lake Tahoe Basin, which was prepared through a collaborative process with the local Fire Protection Districts and the U.S. Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit.

Trees to be removed will be marked by or under the supervision of a California Registered Professional Forester. Debris piles will be burned in accordance with county and state regulations. Contract hand crew will perform the work. Cultural resources will be delineated with flagging by or under the direct supervision of the Sierra District Associate Archaeologist no more than 30 days prior to implementation of the project. If the project is delayed over the 30-day limit, a qualified DPR archaeologist or Registered Professional Forester will check flagging to ensure visibility prior to field activities. Vehicles or heavy equipment will be prohibited within exclusion zones. Pile burning within site boundaries is prohibited. Slash will be removed from within flagged areas by hand and burned off-site. In the event that previously undocumented cultural resources are encountered during forest thinning, work within the immediate vicinity of

the find will be suspended until an appropriate data treatment program is designed and implemented. In the event that human remains are discovered, project work will immediately cease in the area of the find and the Project Manager will notify the County Coroner. If the remains are determined to be of Native American origin, both the Native American Heritage Commission and any identified descendants will be notified.

Preparer's Name and Title: Douglas Kleinsmith Date: 6-9-09
Douglas Kleinsmith
Natural Resource Specialist

Regional Archeologist concurrence with Item 9:

See attached concurrence memo

ITA Designee concurrence with Item 10:

See attached concurrence memo

Approved:

Mike Chumley Date: 6/10/09
Regional Environmental Officer

From: Connolly, Jonathan D

Sent: Monday, June 08, 2009 9:28 AM

To: Mayville, Myrnie E

Cc: Barnes, Amy J; Bruce, Brandee E; Goodsell, Joanne; Leigh, Anastasia T; Nickels, Adam M; Overly, Stephen; Williams, Patrick E

Subject: Glenridge Fuel Reduction Project at Sugar Pine Point State Park, 09-LBAO-077

Project No. 09-LBAO-077

Myrnie:

The proposed action to provide the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) with funding to implement a fuel reduction project was determined to be the type of activity that has the potential to affect historic properties. Accordingly, Reclamation entered into consultation with the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) requesting concurrence on a finding of no adverse effect to historic properties pursuant to the regulations at 36 CFR Part 800, which implement Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Reclamation proposes to award grant money to DPR to construct a strategic defensible space, in the vicinity of the community of Glenridge, for wildland firefighters should a wildfire approach from the north or the west. This area was chosen because of its close proximity to the community of Glenridge and is designed to provide protection to residents and structures within the community, which has been devastated by recent wildfires. Additionally, this project will help foster native forest composition and structure. Fuel reduction activities will occur in two stages: first, a mechanical thinning of the project area will occur; second, pile burning of slash, from the mechanical thinning, will occur in the fall to reduce the fuel-load and the likelihood of malicious ignition.

Reclamation entered into consultation on June 1st, 2009 and requested an expedited review due to the high priority of this project. SHPO concurred with Reclamation's findings on June 4th, 2009, Reclamation received this concurrence on June 8th, 2009 (see attached SHPO concurrence letter).

As a result of SHPO concurring with Reclamation's findings, I am now able to concur with the CEC for the Glenridge Fuel Reduction Project at Sugar Pine Point State Park.

Location: T. 14 N., R. 17 E., Section 20, M.D.B.M., Sugar Pine Point State Park, El Dorado County, California.

This concludes the Section 106 process. Please include a copy of this concurrence for the project file. Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



**OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

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June 04, 2009

In Reply Refer To: BUR090601A

Michael A. Chotkowski
Regional Environmental Officer
United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Mid-Pacific Regional Office
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825-1898

Re: Glenridge Fuel Reduction Project at Sugar Pine Point State Park, El Dorado
County, California (Project No. 09-LBAO-077)

Dear Mr. Chotkowski:

Thank you for seeking my consultation regarding the proposed Glenridge Fuel Reduction Project at Sugar Pine Point State Park in El Dorado County. Pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800 (as amended 8-05-04) regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Bureau of Reclamation (BUR) is seeking my comments regarding the effects that this project will have on historic properties. The proposed project will be implemented by the California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR) using grant funds provided by the BUR. The BUR has determined that the use of federal funds for this project constitutes an undertaking pursuant to Section 106 regulations.

The undertaking will involve the construction, by CDRP, of a strategic defensible space for wildland firefighters should a wildfire approach from the north or west and threaten the community of Glenridge, which is adjacent to Sugar Pine Point State Park and which has been impacted by recent wildfires. Fuel reduction activities will include initial mechanical thinning of the vegetation in the project area and later (fall of 2009) pile burning of slash from the thinning to reduce the fuel-load and likelihood of malicious ignition. The BUR has determined that the Area of Potential Effects (APE) consists of the 32-acre zone within Sugar Pine Point State Park that will be subject to fuel reduction activities. In addition to your letter of May 29, 2009, you have submitted the following document as evidence of your efforts to identify and evaluate historic properties in the APE:

- *Section 106 Compliance Report for the Glenridge Fuel Reduction Project Finding of No Adverse Effect: District Tracking No. 339-2008-03, CEQA No: 8500 (Denise Jafke, State of California Department of Parks and Recreation, Sierra District: June 2009).*

After reviewing your letter and supporting documentation, I have the following comments:

- 1) I concur that archaeological site CA-ELD-2790/H is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under criterion D.
- 2) I further concur that the historic property identified as P-09-4556 (wood post and barbed wire fence line) is not eligible for the NRHP under any criteria.
- 3) I further concur that the three isolates, I-23, I-32, and I-33 are not historic properties under NRHP criteria.
- 4) I further concur that, with the implementation of the protection/avoidance/monitoring provisions outlined in your letter of May 29, 2009, that a finding of No Adverse Effect with conditions is appropriate pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.5b.

Be advised that under certain circumstances, such as unanticipated discovery or a change in project description, the BUR may have additional future responsibilities for this undertaking under 36 CFR Part 800. Thank you for seeking my comments and for considering historic properties in planning your project. If you require further information, please contact William Soule, Associate State Archeologist, at phone 916-654-4614 or email wsoule@parks.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Susan K Stratton for

Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA
State Historic Preservation Officer

From: Patricia Rivera
To: Kleinsmith, Douglas
Date: 5/7/2009 11:46:32 AM
Subject: Re: ITA request for Glenridge Defense Zone

Doug,

I reviewed the proposed action to create a wildlife defense zone on 32 acres to a width of 200 meters on the south boundary adjacent to the Glenridge community at Sugar Pine Point State Park to reduce the threat of a catastrophic wildfire and improve native forest composition and structure.

The proposed action does not affect Indian Trust Assets. The nearest ITA is a Public Domain Allotment which is approximately 25 miles SE of the project location.

Patricia

>>> Douglas Kleinsmith 5/6/2009 3:51:24 PM >>>
Patricia,

Attached is the ITA form.

Doug